Lava Beds National Monument

Unit 3 – Activity A: What's in a Habitat?

OBJECTIVES:

Students will learn the necessary components all life forms need to live in a habitat: water, food and shelter. They will understand that humans also need these components as do bats. Students will learn about the different places bats use as shelter, how they get water and the different types of food they eat.

MATERIALS:

- Overheads (optional)
- Video: Discover Bats! Valuable Neighbors.
- Video: **Kids Discover Bats:** Chapter 2: What Bats Eat (5:21-12:39

You will need to provide

- Piece of blank paper for each student
- Art supplies like crayons or colored pencils if you like
- Overhead Projector (optional)

SUBJECTS:

Life Science, Art

SKILLS:

Compare and Contrast

METHOD:

- 1. Lead a discussion about the three essentials that all life needs to survive- water, food and shelter. Write the words on the board.
- 2. Give the students paper and art supplies, ask them to draw a picture of where they live labeling where they get: water, food and shelter.
- 3. Explain to students that food, water and shelter combined to meet animal or human needs is called "habitat." Have students write habitat in big letters at the top of their drawing.
- 4. Ask students if they think bats need all of these things? Compare how humans get water, food and shelter to how bats get the three essentials. You can use the overheads in Appendix B to help illustrate this.
- 5. Ask students if they could live in a habitat where the bathroom was 7 miles away, the kitchen was 12 miles away in another direction and the bedroom was another 5 miles away in yet another direction. This arrangement is not suitable for people though some animals like bats do travel great distances in their habitat. Make sure students understand that how far away each part of the habitat is matters too, the arrangement of resources is important too.

- 6. Discuss the different types of shelter bats use and how caves bats hibernate in must meet specific requirements. You can use the Overheads to show different shelters that bats live in.
- 7. Explain how hibernation and migration are ways bats cope with dwindling food resources in northern climates. Watch **Kids Discover Bats**: Chapter 2: What Bats Eat (5:21-12:39) about 7 minutes.

EXTENSION:

Watch Discover Bats! Valuable Neighbors (start at 38 minutes), and discuss what rolls bats play in our neighborhoods, and why it is important to protect them.